

Serial No. 10/656,841
60,130-1721
03MRA0169

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1-8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The suspension system as recited in claim 7, further comprising~~

A suspension system comprising:

a composite leaf spring comprising a forward leaf spring segment defining an arcuate segment, a rearward leaf spring segment, and a mounting segment intermediate said forward leaf spring segment and said rearward leaf spring segment; and
a rear attachment system comprising a shear damper mounted to said rearward leaf spring segment;

a mount overmolded to said rearward leaf spring segment, said shear damper mounted directly to said mount.

10-11. (CANCELED)

12. (ORIGINAL) ~~The suspension system as recited in claim 7, further comprising~~

A suspension system comprising:

a composite leaf spring comprising a forward leaf spring segment defining an arcuate segment, a rearward leaf spring segment, and a mounting segment intermediate said forward leaf spring segment and said rearward leaf spring segment; and
a rear attachment system comprising a shear damper mounted to said rearward leaf spring segment; and

a substantially rectilinear mount to receive said rearward leaf spring segment, said rearward leaf spring segment substantially free to longitudinally slide within said substantially rectilinear mount.

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13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A method as recited in claim 13, wherein said step (2) comprises~~

A method of mounting a composite leaf spring to a rear attachment system mounted to a vehicle mainframe comprising the steps of:

- (1) forming a rearward leaf spring segment as an end of a composite leaf spring;
- (2) attaching a shear damper between the rearward leaf spring segment and the vehicle mainframe such that the rearward leaf spring segment is longitudinally movable parallel to the vehicle mainframe as the shear damper moves in shear and fixing the shear damper to the vehicle mainframe and a mount overmolded to the rearward leaf spring segment.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method of mounting a composite leaf spring to a rear attachment system mounted to a vehicle mainframe comprising the steps of:

- (1) forming a rearward leaf spring segment as an end of a composite leaf spring;
- (2) slidably retaining the rearward leaf spring segment within a mount; and
- (3) attaching a shear damper between the mount and the vehicle mainframe such that the rearward leaf spring segment is longitudinally movable parallel to the vehicle mainframe as the shear damper moves in shear and the rearward leaf spring segment slides within the mount.

16-22. (CANCELED)